

...implementar u...
...de una cultura del encuentro en tot...
...derechos universales. La ciencia, la cultura, la...
...contribuir al logro de sociedades más justas, so...
...comprometidas con el cuidado de la casa común.

Francisco

PONENCIAS

SEMINARIO DERECHO HUMANO AL AGUA

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23 al 24 de febrero de 2017
Casina Pio IV | Ciudad del Vaticano



PONENCIAS

SEMINARIO

DERECHO HUMANO AL AGUA

APORTES Y PERSPECTIVAS INTERDISCIPLINARIAS SOBRE
LA CENTRALIDAD DE LAS POLÍTICAS PÚBLICAS EN LA
GESTIÓN DE LOS SERVICIOS DE AGUA Y SANEAMIENTO

23 y 24 de febrero de 2017

Casina Pio IV | Ciudad del Vaticano



CÁTEDRA DEL DIÁLOGO Y
LA CULTURA
DEL
ENCUENTRO





“En realidad, el acceso al agua potable y segura es un derecho humano básico, fundamental y universal, porque determina la sobrevivencia de las personas, y, por lo tanto, es condición para el ejercicio de los demás derechos humanos.”

(Laudato Si', 30)

EJE 2

LA CENTRALIDAD DE LAS POLÍTICAS PÚBLICAS EN LA CONSTRUCCIÓN DEL BIEN COMÚN



Panel 4

GEOPOLÍTICA DEL AGUA: EL IMPACTO DEL CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO EN LOS SISTEMAS HÍDRICOS. ABORDAJES Y ESTRATEGIAS

WATER SECURITY AND THE CENTRALITY OF PUBLIC POLICIES IN BUILDING THE COMMON WELFARE

BENEDITO BRAGA⁴⁰

ABSTRACT

I will focus my message on the absolute necessity of building water security for the common welfare. By securing water, people have the hope and a higher chance to live free of poverty, to be more resilient from the risks of the droughts and floods that plague us today and those that will become more frequent and intense in the future, live with more dignity and with more opportunity to realize our best potential. Achieving water security however is going to be a long and winding road that shall require commitment at the highest political level.

Although climate change has potentially wide-ranging impacts on water, since the Kyoto protocol in 1997, large international debates with world leaders have been emphasizing the energy side of climate change - with negotiations mainly focusing on mitigation. Only recently during the COP22 in Marrakesh last November, the Moroccan Government and the World Water Council promoted a Water Day emphasizing the importance of bringing the issue of adaptation higher in Climate debate.

Water connects society, economy and environment. It is imperative that politicians and leaders at all levels see water as a resource for a viable path towards growth, prosperity and dignity for all. This vision followed by concrete action can lead to resilience and ability to handle the uncertainties associated with climate change.

Experience shows us that we cannot achieve sustainable water resources management without engaging actors across sectors, from the energy sector, food production, or sanitation services. It is for this reason that the World Water Council, over many years, has built up enduring relationships with organizations in many different fields and communities including the religious, public and business and the finance sector.

40 Secretary of State for Sanitation and Water Resources for the State of São Paulo and professor (on leave of absence) of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Escola Politécnica of University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil. Prof. He graduated from Escola Politécnica of University of São Paulo in 1972. He holds a MSc in Hydraulic Engineering from USP (1975), a MSc in Hydrology (1976) and PhD (1979) in Water Resources from Stanford University, United States, and he is an Honorary Diplomate of the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers. He was elected to his first three-year mandate as President of the World Water Council in November 2012 and was reelected for a second term in November 2015. Before this, from 2006 to 2012, he served as Vice-President of the World Water Council and chaired the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the 6th and 7th editions of the World Water Forum in Marseille (France) and Daegu-Gyeongbuk (Korea). He was a member of UNESCO - International Hydrologic Program committee that designed its Phase V (1995-2000). At UNESCO, he was elected President of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrologic Program (2008-2009). He served as senior advisor to the Secretary of Energy and Sanitation of the State of São Paulo, Brazil in 2010 and was a member of the Gulbenkian Think Tank for the future of water and humankind based in Lisbon, Portugal (2010-2012). He served on the Board of Directors of the Brazilian National Water Agency - ANA from 2001-2009. He was President of the International Water Resources Association (1998-2000). He is the recipient of the 2002 Crystal Drop Award, given by the International Water Resources Association - IWRA in recognition for his lifetime achievements in the area of water resources management.

This is the moment where we must reach beyond sectoral interests to act in collaboration to secure and sustain our social, economic, and environmental wellbeing and prosperity in the long-term.

SPEECH

Your Eminences

Your Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentleman,

I am very honoured to be with you today and I would to thank the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and the Cátedra del Diálogo y la Cultura del Encuentro for this invitation to speak with you today. I would also like to express the recognition of the World Water Council of the theme of this week's seminar: the human right to water. This is a fundamental tenement for socio-economic development and the well-being for all. It has also been a long-championed endeavor for many of us, including the World Water Council.

Figure 1



Today, we are faced with unprecedented water related challenges. Not more than two years ago, the Millennium Development Goals on Water reported back that significant improvements had been made on access to improved drinking water and sanitation; this is good news. But there remains much work to be done. Today, there are still hundreds of millions of people without access to improved safe drinking water and 2.4 billion people without access to basic sanitation. Indeed, the recognition of the human right to water and sanitation in 2010 by the

UN General Assembly certainly highlighted the urgency of the matter by stating that: “the right to water and sanitation is a human right that stands on an equal footing with any other human right- social, economic, political or civil.”

By making such pledge, water is recognized as a means for freedom, defending the dignity of every person and oriented towards the common good.

Figure 2

WATER SECURITY AND THE CENTRALITY OF PUBLIC POLICIES IN BUILDING THE COMMON WELFARE

Are we living up to our responsibilities in these unpredictable times?



TOGETHER WE MAKE WATER A GLOBAL PRIORITY



But let me ask you two important questions:

Are we living up to our responsibilities in these unpredictable times?

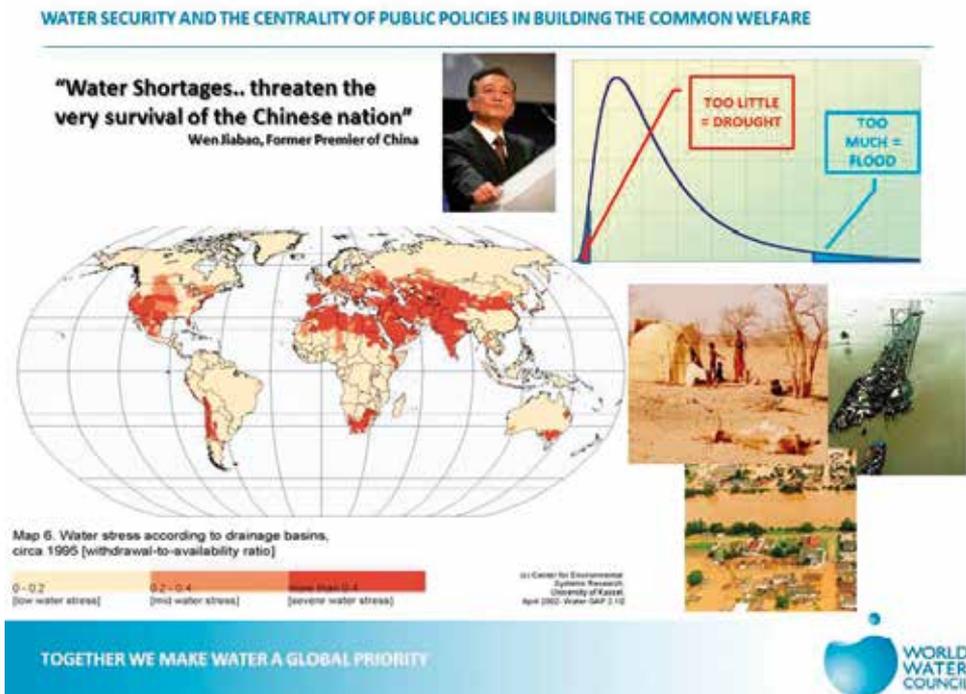
Beyond the moral imperative, what can be the strategic, social and economic imperatives driving such commitment into obligations in a time of global changes including climate change?

Today most of the reasons world leaders and climate change community cite as to why we should be concerned with climate change, deal with impacts of water events such as sea level rise, floods, droughts, tsunamis and more.

At the same time, little effort is spent on investing in measures to deal directly with such events; measures well known to the water community. This raises a significant ethical public policy issue. Are we raising fears and anxieties over impacts of projected changes in climate while inadvertently denying means to cope with these impacts?

The climate change debate is adding more uncertainty to the water managers' task as there is little specificity of the time and place of events. Until more specificity is achieved, our political and social system responses will seek to invest in more resiliency, redundancy and higher levels of risk protection and maximum flexibility.

Figure 3



I would like to focus my message on the absolute necessity of building water security for the common welfare. By securing water, people have the hope and a higher chance to live free of poverty, to be more resilient from the risks of the droughts and floods that plague us today and those that will become more frequent and intense in the future, to live with more dignity and with more opportunity to realize their best potential. Achieving water security however is going to be long and winding road that shall require commitment at the highest political level.

The water crisis is not just a threat per se, but a threat multiplier. In this perspective, the implications for food, health and energy security, as well as political and social stability are increased manifold.

By 2050, over 50% of the global population may be living under water stress and 45% of the world GDP may originate in water-stressed regions.

Figure 4

WATER SECURITY AND THE CENTRALITY OF PUBLIC POLICIES IN BUILDING THE COMMON WELFARE

“There must be a paradigm shift in the Climate Debate from Mitigation to Adaptation.

For too long international debates have been focusing the energy side of climate change, underestimating the role of water.”

WWC-Water Action Adaptation at CoP22




MARRAKECH COP22|CMP12
 UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2016
 مؤتمر الأمم المتحدة لتغير المناخ
 +COP22 | C+22 | COP22 XXI | COP22 XXI



TOGETHER WE MAKE WATER A GLOBAL PRIORITY

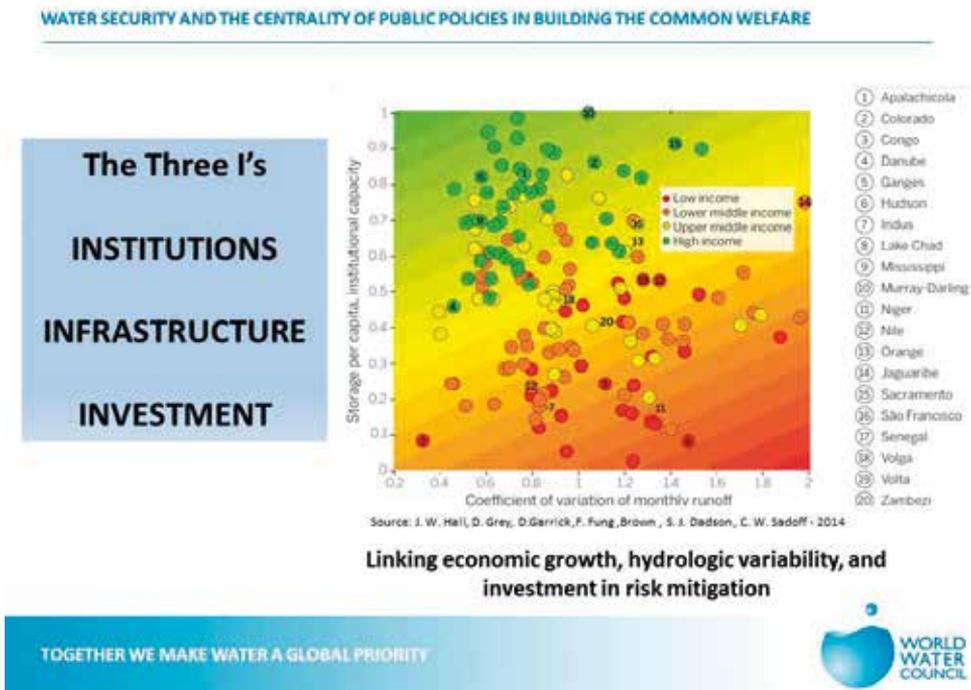


Although climate change has potentially wide-ranging impacts on water, since the Kyoto protocol in 1997, large international debates with world leaders have been emphasizing the energy side of climate change - with negotiations mainly focusing on mitigation. Only recently during the COP22 in Marrakesh last November, the Moroccan Government and the World Water Council promoted a Water Day emphasizing the importance of bringing the issue of adaptation higher in Climate debate.

Just this month, the United Nations is warning that Somalia risks slipping back into famine. More than four of every ten residents do not have enough to eat because of poor rains and conflict that have caused institutional and technical weakness.

In 2011 in Thailand, widespread flooding not only devastated the population but quite an important sector of our globalized economy. Floods destroyed the factories that produced IT hardware, such as hard disk drives. In a country that accounts for a quarter of the world’s production of these devices the local flooding has led to massive disruptions to international supply chains and provoked a spike in costs that took the world almost two years to recover.

Figure 5



Adapting to these hydrologic variabilities, building resilience to risk, involves implementing "the three 'I's": Institutions, Infrastructure and Investment.

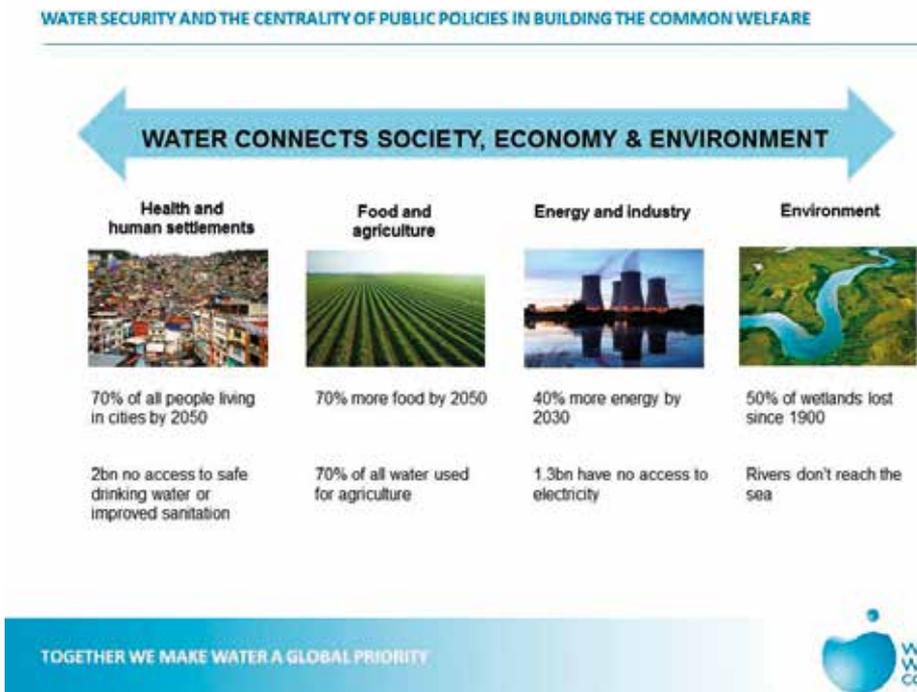
- Institutions both public and non-governmental are essential to achieve good governance to allow the involvement of all stakeholders in the decision-making process
- Infrastructure must enable us to dramatically increase our development potential as well as providing a buffer against variability.
- Investment from not only a financial point of view but commitment from a political perspective is essential to achieve positive change.

This chart presents the world's river basins with a population over 2 million, colored according to GDP per capita of the population in the basin.

The horizontal axis shows the hydrologic variability in terms of coefficient of variation. The vertical axis is a composite indicator of investment in infrastructure and institutional capacity. The colored contours translate the association between hydrologic variability, water security investments, and GDP.

As you can see, high income countries have reduced their risks and increased their security and income by investing in the augmentation of water storage.

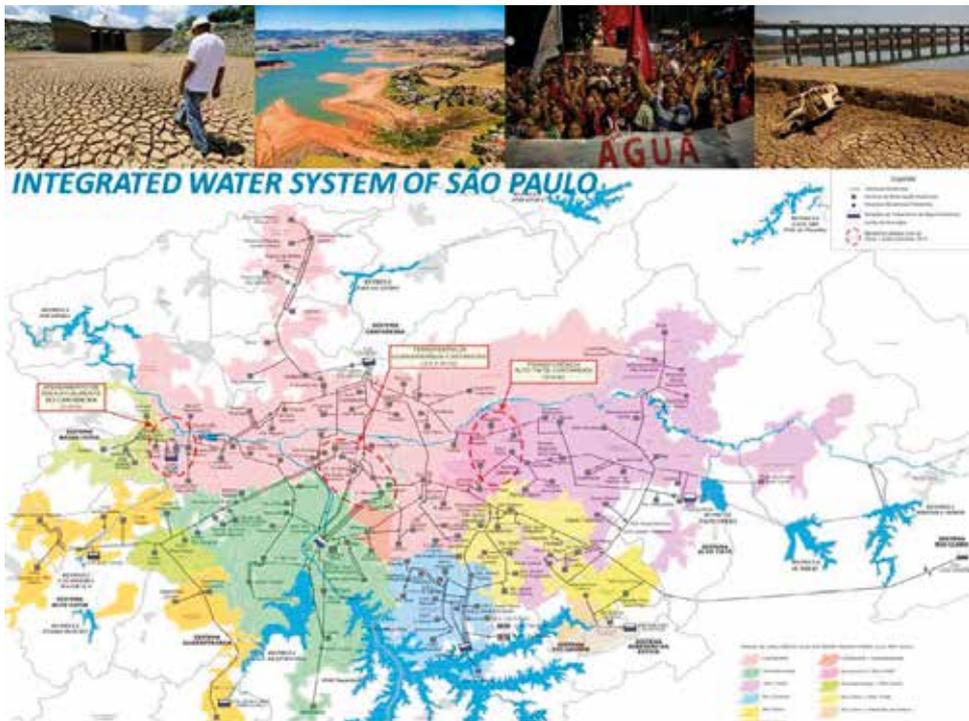
Figure 6



Water connects society, economy and environment. It is imperative that politicians and leaders at all levels see water as a resource for a viable path towards growth, prosperity and dignity for all. This vision followed by concrete action can lead to resilience and ability to handle the uncertainties associated with climate change.

Today, data from US National Intelligence Council confirms that water security is fundamental for political stability, and again, last month, the World Economic Forum confirmed this assertion from the business community point of view in their 2017 Global Risks Report. Extreme weather events and water crises are positioned in second and third place in terms of impact in the global economy.

Figure 7



There are numerous examples all over the world that could be used to emphasize the importance of water security. An important one comes from my home country Brazil. The Metropolitan region of São Paulo, where more than 20 million people live, has faced during 2014-2015 the worst drought observed in a hydrologic record of more than 125 years of data.

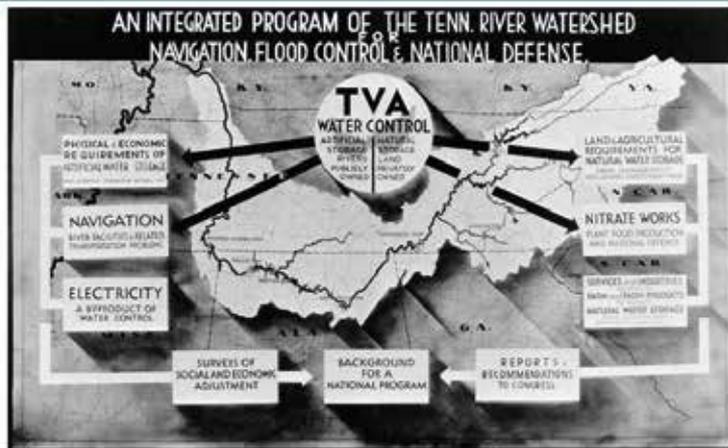
When facing a drought of this scale the trade-offs that we must make between the uses and users of water are very stark; the need to adapt and change is urgent; and the need to divert investment from other priorities to water infrastructure, institutions and communication is ever-present. All of these problems reflect essentially political choices, but choices that are supported by strong technical foundations.

At the same time, a crisis such as the drought in Sao Paulo, was an opportunity to improve public perspectives on water; a chance to introduce reform processes that might otherwise not progress; and a chance to invest in more resilient infrastructure that positioned the region in a more comfortable position in the event of adverse climatic conditions in the future.

However, one of the greatest learnings from Sao Paulo is my strong belief that both demand management and infrastructure development were essential in solving that major challenge.

Figure 8

WATER SECURITY AND THE CENTRALITY OF PUBLIC POLICIES IN BUILDING THE COMMON WELFARE



"650 billion USD of annual investment is required from now to 2030 to ensure the infrastructure for water security"

High-Level Panel on Water, 2016

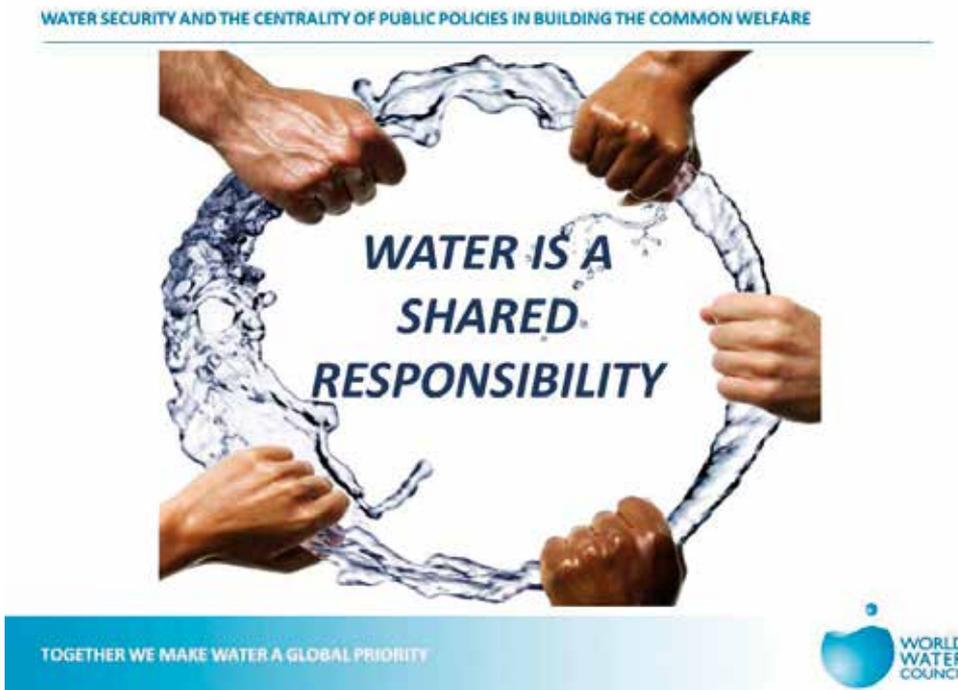


One of the most salient examples that infrastructure development pays off is the New Deal that pushed the United States out of economic depression in the 1930's. The creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority in the Tennessee River basin with its set of multipurpose reservoirs for hydropower generation, navigation and flood control allowed that economically deprived region to reach, in one generation, the quality of life of the most developed states of the American federation.

Massive investments will be needed if governments are to deliver the aspirational Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations last September. For example, it is estimated that 650 billion US dollars of annual investment is required from now to 2030 to ensure the infrastructure necessary to achieve water security.

The World Water Council strives to work actively on this topic at all levels. Most recently working with the UN-World Bank Heads of State High Level Panel on Water on the subject of Water Infrastructure and Investment; as well as founding with the OECD and the Dutch Government a Roundtable on Financing for Water.

Figure 9



To face this global water security challenge, we need to scale up solutions and adapt to a more rapidly changing world. The question is how do we do this?

I believe that we must start by viewing water as a truly shared responsibility.

We need to understand that we all have an interest in water and we are all responsible.

We urgently need to find ways of realizing this shared responsibility by involving all stakeholders including not only governments but the whole civil society community.

Experience shows us that we cannot achieve sustainable water resources management without engaging actors across sectors, from the energy sector, food production, or sanitation services. It is for this reason that the World Water Council, over many years, has built up enduring relationships with organizations in many different fields and communities including the religious, public institutions, business and the finance sector.

Ladies and gentlemen, water impacts all of us. As a result, it is a complex business that must be viewed through the water supply, energy, transport, food, flood, and drought lenses. It must take into account the upstream and the downstream social, economic and environmental impacts. As with any intervention in the natural environment there are choices to be made, each with impacts that are both positive and negative and with costs and benefits.

I believe this is the moment where we must reach beyond sectoral interests to act in collaboration to secure and sustain our social, economic, and environmental wellbeing and prosperity in the long-term. By working together, I am convinced that we can make a real difference.

Thank you.